

June 2023 Commission Report

- As of June 1, 2023, VR/SBVI programs have completed 2,788 applications for employment, 1,308 plans for employment, and 619 successful employment outcomes.
- Hourly wage earnings are 15.81 per hour on successful outcomes.
- The VR Division Administrator continues to meet with Field Coordinators every other week to focus on process improvement and program development.
- A meeting with Program Managers, Field Coordinators, Business Coordinator, and Transition Coordinator was held March 8-9. Topics of discussion included the recent Gov. Executive Order, vehicle use, Hope Science/Servant Leadership, data management, transition services, business services, and a legislative overview by Jennifer Hardin.
- Staff participated in Disability Awareness Day on March 7.
- Both VR/SBVI Division Administrators and Field Coordinators continue to meet monthly regarding common program issues.
- A virtual meeting was held with all VR staff on March 21 to discuss programmatic issues and performance.
- Counselor appreciation day was recognized on March 22.
- OKTVR meetings were held in March and May. These meetings enhance our relationship with the Tribal VR programs.
- Staff attended the National Association of Workforce Boards annual conference.
- Monthly meetings continue to occur between VR/SBVI staff, and DHS employees with Developmental Disability Services.
- VR staff participated in the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation national conference.
- Multiple pre-on-site discussions were held with RSA in preparation for the audit.
- Leadership Trainings were held on April 26-27, and May 23-24. The focus was on recruitment and retention, as well as program development.
- The VR/SBVI DA's and Director participated in new employee academy.
- RSA audit occurred May 9-11.
- We are working with many counseling vacancies, and many people are working two jobs.
- At this time, we have successfully assisted 238 clients this year to go off SSI/SSDI benefits, which has resulted in a return of money to the program in the amount of \$2,624,221.58.

Business Services

- A meeting was held with the Office of Workforce/Department of Commerce to work on the details of the Business Summit to be held in May of 2024.
- BSP had a marketing/job development training with NCEDET/OU to make sure we are better prepared to market our services and the employment of people with disabilities in integrated settings.
- A Ribbon cutting was held in Claremore to showcase the partnership of the Chamber of Commerce, Business partners and the Northeast One Stop Operator.
- A Business Advisory Council was held in Lawton with the participation of the business community and Dr. Annie Baghdayan NCEDET Executive director.

- Tulsa International Airport staff met with the Business Services team on May 11 and then invited the Business Services Team to a ribbon cutting of their accessibility rooms on May 25. The idea of these rooms is to provide better services to people with and without disabilities. There are rooms for service animals, developmental disabilities, a sensory room, and a breastfeeding room. They stated Charles Watt was a big part of this and now they are inviting the Business Services Team to assist, participate, and work with them in diversifying their workforce. They want to be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

Transition Services

- There are 8 STEM camps scheduled for this summer. There will be one at the School for the Blind and 2 Autism specific STEM camps.
- There are 26 BEST camps scheduled around the state and 23 STEP camps scheduled this summer (followed by BEST). Every "new" school will be doing a BEST camp the first year before having STEP in their community. There will be a minimum of 20 students per camp and the STEP portion will have 4 weeks of work for each student making \$10.00 per hour at no more than 25 hours a week. Wages will be paid for by the Central Workforce Board and the Southern Workforce Board.
- Transition VIBE is the last week of June for blind and visually impaired students.
- Our counselors, Rehabilitation Technicians, OU Pre-Ets (17), and OU Work Skills Trainers (4) are all working collaboratively to provide these amazing opportunities to youth with disabilities ages 16-21.

I'm very proud to work with our employees. I'm thankful for their persistence, flexibility, and commitment to our agency and Oklahomans with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Kinnison', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Kinnison, M.Ed., CRC, LPC-S
VR Administrator
Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services